

Council Bluffs Animal Shelter Dog Walking Club Newsletter

Winter 2009



Volunteer Spotlight



Becca Hilderbrand

Becca Hilderbrand is very passionate about helping animals! She volunteers as much as she can during the week and on weekends.

Becca started volunteering to fulfill school volunteer hours as a student at St. Albert Catholic High School. On completion of her required hours for school, she kept coming back because it was a great activity to do with her classmates who were also volunteering. Her friends are on the cross county team with Becca, so the dogs sure enjoy when they come to give them a work-out!

Becca started getting attached to the long term shelter dogs and wanted to make sure they were all walked every day. She also recruited (Becca says dragged!) her mother, Marian Hilderbrand and her aunt, Cathy Graeve to help her after school. Her mother and aunt come to the shelter and walk dogs even when Becca cannot make it! Marian and Cathy are also very active in finding good homes for the shelter animals.

At school, Becca continually promotes adopting animals from the shelter and shares her volunteer experiences for class projects. When she hears that someone wants to adopt an animal, she encourages them to visit the shelter first.

This winter, a litter of 8 lab puppies were born at the shelter, the SOLAS volunteer program asked for a temporary home for the litter. Becca's family took in the mother and puppies until the puppies were old enough to be adopted.

Becca said that it was a real eye opener. She said it was challenging and required a lot of responsibility. Becca's family made sure that the mother lab, Maggie, and puppies received the around-the-clock care they needed. Due to being in a home environment, the pups became very social with other animals and people by the time they were ready for adoption.

It was really hard for Becca let the mother lab and her puppies go when it was time for them to be adopted. Becca feels good that she knows everyone who adopted the dogs and is glad they are in great, loving homes.

Becca is an honor student and is on the cross country, soccer, softball and track teams at school.

Becca won an award at our Dog Walker Club holiday party for volunteering the most hours for 2008! We are thankful for Becca's time and hard work for the animals!

Becca's motto is to save the world, one dog at a time!

Welcome New Dog Walkers!

December, January and February new volunteers include:

Gail Behrens, Barb Frink, Marian and Nicole Hilderbrand, Jessica Winter, Sarah Minssen, Lindsey Jenkins, Rick and Luke Waters, Alicia O'Neill, Alec Maher, Ryan Beck, Adam Beck, Katelyn Bass, Ashley Schaben, Stasha Cannon.

Thank you, Marian Hilderbrand, for recruiting volunteers from church and conducting their orientation!



Jessica Winter working with Daisy during January Orientation.
Daisy has been adopted!

DOG WALKING CLUB DINNER AND MEETING

So many dog walkers have innovative ideas to take our dog walking club to the next level!

Let's meet for pizza, salad, garlic bread, pop and fun at Pizza King, Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at 6:30PM. Pizza King's address is 1101 N Broadway St. Council Bluffs, IA.

If you are able to attend please RSVP Karen, (402)990-6937, by Monday, March 9, so we know how much food to order on the 10th. A donation jar will be provided if you are able to donate toward food.

Hope to see you there!

NEW CALENDAR SIGN-UP

We have a new calendar book to help our group make sure that dogs are walked Monday through Saturday. Please write your name and time on the days that you know ahead of time that you are able to volunteer in the calendar book. It is in our cubby by the volunteer sign-in folder.

More instruction about the calendar book will be at the next March meeting.

Special Thanks

Pizza and prizes were donated by Shirley and Jerry Osler at our first Holiday Dog Walking Club party. They also donated delicious cookies that were shaped like dogs and dog bones. We really appreciate the Osler's generosity! Thank you, Colleen and Shane Berman for donating the tasty garlic bread for the holiday party! Thanks to the other volunteers who helped with the party: Connie Richardson and Pam, Liz and Josh Larson.



Janine Jarecki, Liz Larson, Pam Larson, Monica Tway and Connie Richardson at the holiday party.

2008 Statistics

Way to go, Dog Walkers! The 2008 recorded volunteer hours were 704! Don't forget to write down your volunteer hours for 2009!

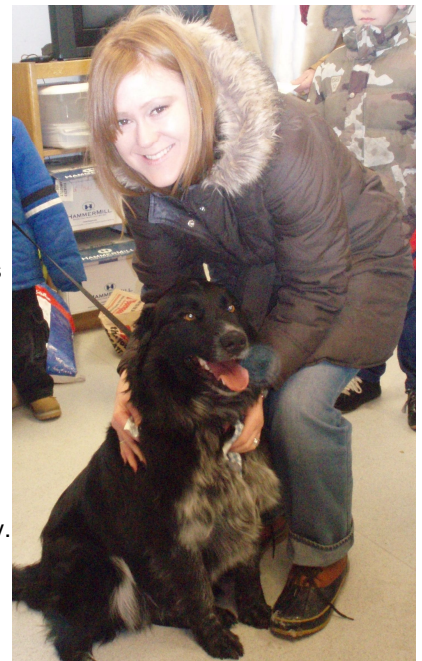
SOLAS volunteers are taking care of seven motherless puppies. They are 5 weeks old on 2/22/09; they are growing very fast and drinking lots of formula. The SOLAS volunteer group is going through lots of supplies for the puppies and would greatly appreciate any help that you can give. The pups drink Hartz brand that can be purchased at Wal-Mart (it is a powdered formula that comes in a 12 ounce blue container). Remember, donations are tax-deductible and are greatly needed and appreciated. To contact SOLAS, call 712-256-2287 or email solas@cox.net.

Colleen Berman and Sandra McGinty made bright and colorful dog scarves to show off the shelter dogs on Valentine's Day.

The dogs will be wearing the scarves on Saturdays during adoption hours.

Thank you Colleen and Sandra for making such beautiful scarves!

Colleen is pictured here with Cody. Cody was adopted and now lives in Avoca with his new family.



Don't forget to check out what is happening with the new Midlands Humane Society. We should break ground to start building this year!
<http://midlandshumanesociety.org/>

Additional Reminders

The back door alarm by the garage has gone off a few times in the middle of the night. It is a very tricky door! Even when the dead-bolt is set, the latch for the door handle must also be fully closed. If it isn't, the alarm goes off during those windy Iowa nights. If you are the last dog walker, please make sure that the door is latched. The shelter staff appreciates you taking the time to check the door!

Have ideas for the newsletter or want to be a member of the Dog Walking Club? Contact Karen at 712-352-1078 or email kinspector@msn.com. Thank you Dog Walkers for your hard work and for letting the dogs walk you!